

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00169 132038Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01 /082 W
-----140908Z 109950 /10

R 131342Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1679
AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 169

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: LOYALIST STRIKE: ELEVENTH DAY

1. AS SECOND WEEKEND OF UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL (UAC) STRIKE APPROACHES THERE FEW OBSERVABLE INDICATIONS IN ULSTER THAT STRIKE IS STILL ON. ONE DOCK AT PORT OF LARNE IS WORKING AND BRITISH RAIL SEALINK AND TOWNSEND THORENSEN LINES ARE NOW ACCEPTING PASSENGER VEHICLES AND PASSENGERS. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES ARE NORMAL ALTHOUGH THERE CONSIDERABLE ABSENTEEISM AT POWER CENTERS. DESPITE LACK OF BUS SERVICE, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS MOST AREAS REPORTED WORKER ATTENDANCE MAY 12 REACHED HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE STRIKE BEGAN. ATTENDANCE TODAY, PAYDAY IN MANY PLANTS, IS EXPECTED TO BE EVEN HIGHER. FOOD SUPPLIES INCLUDING MILK, BREAD AND FRESH VEGETABLES ARE AGAIN PLENTIFUL. THERE WAS NEVER ANY REAL GENERAL SHORTAGE EXCEPT THAT CREATED BY PANIC BUYING. LIVING CONDITIONS ARE NOW WORSE IN HARD-LINE LOYALIST AREAS BELFAST THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. IT WOULD BE SENSIBLE FOR STRIKE LEADERS TO CALL FOR END TO STRIKE NOW RATHER THAN TRY TO RE-ACTIVATE IT NEXT MONDAY MORNING.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00169 132038Z

PAISLEY AND COMPANY CAN POINT TO SOME GAINS, NOTABLY SECRETARY OF STATE MASON' S AGREEMENT WITH POWER WORKERS TO REVIEW ANTI-TERRORIST LEGISLATION AND CERTAIN MINOR ADDITIONS TO SECURITY FORCES COMPLEMENT.

2. PROVISIONAL IRA SEEMS TO BE STIRRING AS LOYALIST ROAD-BLOCKS DISAPPEAR. BOMBING OF BELFAST MENSWEAR SHOP AND

KILLING OF JUSTICE OF PEACE IN VILLAGE OF ROSSLEA NEAR
MONAGHAN BORDER BOTH MAY 12 APPEAR TO BE PROVISIONAL ACTS.
PROVISIONALS COULD YET MANAGE TO REVITALIZE LOYALIST STRIKE.

3. SPECULATION BEGINNING ABOUT DIRECTION POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN AFTERMATH OF LOYALIST STRIKE. ONE LINE IS THAT PROTESTANT
" EXTREMISTS," PAISLEY, BAIRD AND PARAMILITARIES, HAVE BEEN
ISOLATED, DISCREDITED AND RENDERED INEFFECTUAL. THE
LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THIS IS THAT " MODERATES" WILL EMERGE
LESS IMPLACABLE ABOUT SHARING RESPONSIBILITY IN
GOVERNMENT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITY
SUCH AS MEMBERS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY. CONGEN
VIEWS THEORY AS LARGELY WISHFUL THINKING. PAISLEY AND TO MUCH
LESSER EXTENT BAIRD, STILL ENJOY CONSIDERABLE POPULARITY IN
ULSTER. FEW LOYALISTS DISAGREE WITH ONE OBJECTIVE OF
STRIKE - TOUGHER SECURITY MEASURES TO DEFEAT PROVISIONAL IRA.
THE MASS OF LOYALISTS SIMPLY COULD NOT SEE HOW THE
SACRIFICE OF PAY PACKETS COULD CHANGE GOVERNMENT POLICY IN
THIS REGARD. AS FOR A NEW MOOD OF REASONABLENESS AMONG
" MODERATES" , JAMES MOLYNEAUX AT WESTMINSTER AND HARRY WEST
IN ULSTER HAVE WITHIN LAST WEEK MADE THEIR SENTIMENTS KNOWN.
HARRY WEST SAID HE WOULD NOT FAVOR A " SECURITY COUNCIL"
PARTLY BECAUSE THE SDLP WOULD BE REPRESENTED AND WOULD
CRIPPLE INITIATIVES. MOLYNEAUX EQUATED ACTIVITIES UAC
STRIKE-LEADERS WITH ACTIVITIES PRESENT LEADERS SDLP 1969
AND 1970 IN LAUNCHING PRESENT " TROUBLES" . ONE
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT WILL PROBABLY BE RETURN OF VANGUARD
LEADER WILLIAM CRAIG TO ACCEPTABILITY WITH OFFICIAL UNIONISTS
AND ANOTHER MIGHT BE RETURN OF UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00169 132038Z

TO SAME EMBRACE. ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY SHOULD EMERGE WITH
MORE CREDITABILITY AS UNBIASED FORCE. RESULTS LOCAL COUNCIL
ELECTIONS NEXT WEDNESDAY SHOULD GIVE CLUES TO VOTER
ATTITUDES TOWARD PAISLEY, BAIRD, WEST ET AL IN LIGHT OF
STRIKE.

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, REPORTS, GENERAL STRIKES, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0850
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770563/aaaaccey.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 66853895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2543107
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOYALIST STRIKE: ELEVENTH DAY
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/66853895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009